(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the ongoing world outrage over the detention centre established by the Incident Command System (ICS) at Guantanamo five years back on January 11, 2002; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken against this inhuman torture activities of the US there and pressure to wind up Guantanamo detention centre?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes.

(b) India believes in protection of human rights and the observance of rule of law, and considers ill-treatment and abuse of prisoners abhorrent. Government of India's views regarding the need to address public perceptions of their policies have been made known to the concerned Government.

Meeting of delegation of U.S. Jewish organisation

1852. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a high level delegation of U.S. Jewish organization met P.M. last month; and

(b) if so, the purpose of this meeting?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) A delegation from the U.S. of the Board of Directors of American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) made a courtesy call on the Prime Minister on January 23, 2007.

(b) During the meeting, matters related to India-US bilateral relationship and ways to strengthen it were discussed.

Hindus in Pakistan and Bangladesh

1853. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards press reports

about the miserable plight of minority community of Hindus in Pakistan and Bangladesh; and

(b) if so, Government's response thereto and the official number of Hindus residing in Pakistan and Bangladesh?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Government are aware of media and other reports in Pakistan and Bangladesh on the condition of the Hindu minority in these countries. As per the census conducted by Government of Pakistan in 1998, there were 24,43,614 Hindus in Pakistan out of a total population of 13,23,52,279. According to National Report (Provisional) on the Population Census 2001, the number of Hindus in Bangladesh was 1,13,79,000, about 9.2% of the total population.

Indo-US nuclear agreement

1854. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US Congress has since passed the Indo-US Nuclear Cooperation Agreement of July, 2005 and deal with the US has since been finalised;

(b) if so, the amendments, if any that have been made by the US Congress; and

(c) the steps that are contemplated under the final arrangement for disposal or reprocessing of the used fuel?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Iran's nuclear fuel enrichment activities

1855. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has imposed a ban on the "direct or indirect" export of all items that could contribute to Iran's nuclear fuel enrichment related